After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is passed which will require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents. Anyone with super-powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.

Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others, like Captain America, view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties, and go underground to form a resistance movement.

And then there's a third category of hero.

HEROES FOR HIRE

MISTY KNIGHT

COLLEEN WING

HUMBUG

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

TARANTULA

BLACK CAT

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS, PART I

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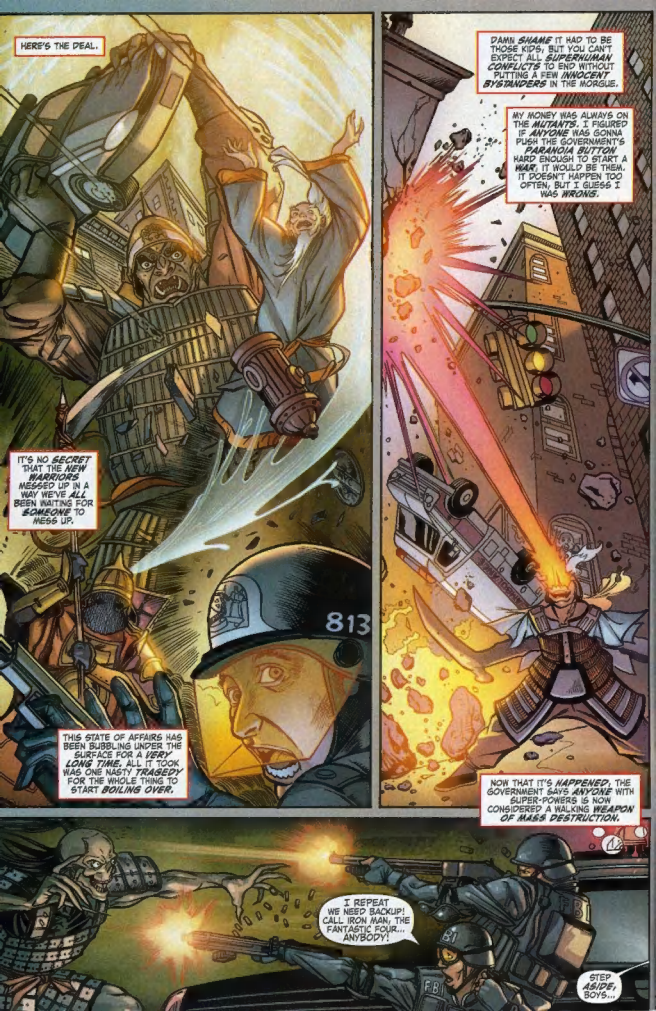

HERE'S THE DEAL.
IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE NEW WARRIORS MESSED UP IN A WAY WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO MESS UP.
813
THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS HAS BEEN BUBBLING UNDER THE SURFACE FOR A VERY LONG TIME. ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE NASTY TRAGEDY FOR THE WHOLE THING TO START BOILING OVER.
DAMN SHAME IT HAD TO BE THOSE KIDS, BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT ALL SUPERHUMAN CONFLICTS TO END WITHOUT PUTTING A FEW INNOCENT BYSTANDERS IN THE MORGUE.
MY MONEY WAS ALWAYS ON THE MUTANTS. I FIGURED IF ANYONE WAS GONNA PUSH THE GOVERNMENT'S PARANOIA BUTTON HARD ENOUGH TO START A WAR, IT WOULD BE THEM. IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TOO OFTEN, BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG.
NOW THAT IT'S HAPPENED, THE GOVERNMENT SAYS ANYONE WITH SUPER-POWERS IS NOW CONSIDERED A WALKING WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
I REPEAT WE NEED BACKUP! CALL IRON MAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR... ANYBODY!
STEP ASIDE, BOYS...
FBI

...WE GOT THIS.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
SHUT UP, FALL BACK AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHO WE ARE.
FBI
FBI
FBI
BACK IN THE DAY, POWER MAN AND IRON FIST TOOK IT TO THE PERPS, OLD-SCHOOL STYLE WITH A BUSINESS CALLED HEROES FOR HIRE...IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE.
THIS IS WHEN THE MAYOR WAS OFF PLAYING TENNIS AND THE PIMPS, MOBSTERS AND DRUG-DEALING SCUM RAN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK AND EVERYONE ELSE WAS JUST TOO DAMN SCARED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
THEY WERE COOLER THAN COOL AND I WISH WE HAD THEM WITH US, BUT THAT AIN'T THE SITUATION. LUKE CAGE IS IN THE WITNESS PROTECTION AND MY OLD BOYFRIEND IRON FIST IS M.I.A.
ANYWAY, THE SAME PRINCIPAL IDEA APPLIES TO US...ONLY WE'RE GETTING FULL PAY WITH MEDICAL AND DENTAL, COURTESY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN TAKING CASH DIRECTLY FROM JOHN Q. PUBLIC.
RIGHT NOW WE'RE HERE TO ROUND UP THE LATEST BATCH OF GOONS THAT CALL THEMSELVES THE COMPLETELY UNINSPIRED MANDARIN'S AVATARS.
YEAH, I KNOW, THE MANDARIN DIED, BUT MY CONTACTS TELL ME A NEW GUY STEPPED IN TO FILL HIS SHOES.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE NEW HEROES FOR HIRE...

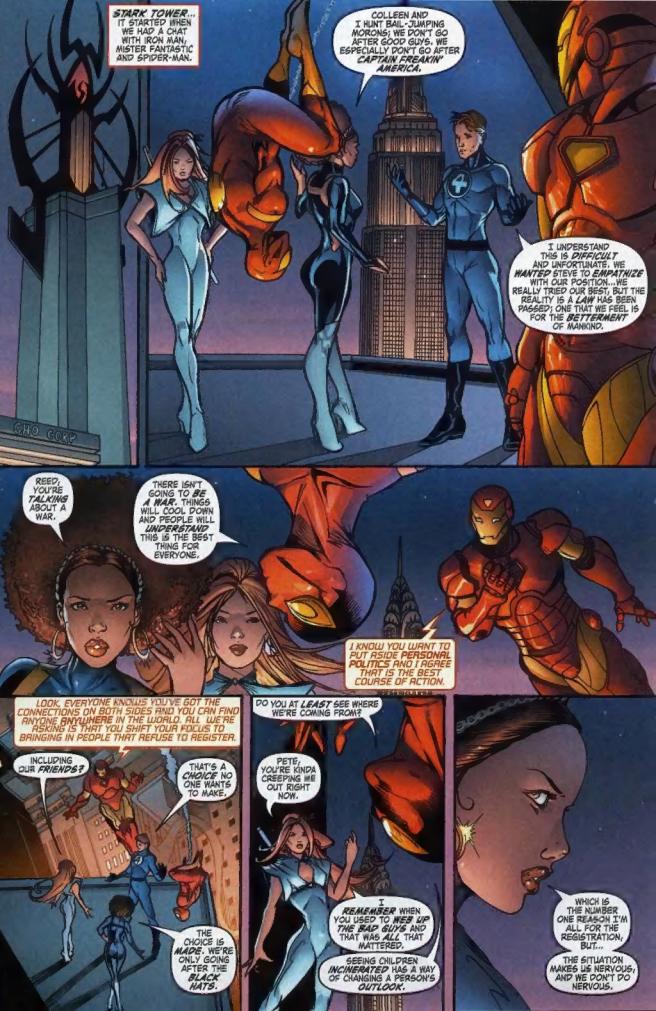
THAT'S MY BEST FRIEND, COLLEEN WING.
DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT CUTE SMILE AND DAZZLING RED HAIR MEANS SHE'S JUST EYE CANDY. SHE SLICES AND SHE DICES AND NEVER NEEDS SHARPENING.
WHAT'S WITH THE SILENT TREATMENT?
I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES US, LICH.
SICKLE, I THINK SHE THINKS SHE'S TOO GOOD FOR US.
COLLEEN GREW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN HONSHU, JAPAN, WHERE HER GRANDFATHER, KENJI OZAWA, RAISED HER. KENJI WAS A REAL BAD MAN WITH A BLADE AND A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE SECRET SERVICE.
KENJI DESCENDED FROM SAMURAI, WHICH PRETTY MUCH MAKES MY GIRL THE ONLY HALF-AMERICAN, HALF-JAPANESE SAMURAI IN NEW YORK.
OUR HISTORY TOGETHER GOES WAY BACK... AS A COP, I LOST MY ARM TO A TERRORIST BOMB AND QUIT THE POLICE FORCE. AFTER THAT, COLLEEN AND I FORMED KNIGHTWING RESTORATIONS, A DETECTIVE-SLASH-BAIL BONDS OPERATION SPECIALIZING IN SUPER-HUMAN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.
IN MY LINE OF WORK, TRUST IS EVERYTHING. IF YOU DON'T TRUST THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU... THEN YOU NEED NEW PEOPLE. POINT OF FACT: THERE IS NO ONE ON THIS PLANET I TRUST MORE THAN THIS GIRL. I LOVE HER AND I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR HER IN A HEARTBEAT.
I PREFER TO LET MY SWORD DO THE TALKING.

THE DIMINUTIVE FELLOW IN THE BLACK LATEX IS BUCK MITTY. BUT HIS DRESS-UP NAME IS HUMBUG.
YEAH, I KNOW, NOT THE KIND OF MONIKER THAT STRIKES FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN, SMALL CHILDREN OR EVEN FURRY ANIMALS.
YOU'RE ANCESTOR, RIGHT? YOUR SPECIAL POWER IS LEECHING OFF OF STRONGER OPPONENTS.
YOU MUST BE LOST, LITTLE MAN. THE LEATHER BAR IS AROUND THE CORNER.
YOU THINK THIS IS BAD, YOU SHOULD SEE MY OLD COSTUME.
MITTY'S AN EX-CON AND ENTOMOLOGY NUT. FOR YOU NON-SCIENCE TYPES, THAT MEANS HE'S CRAZY FOR BUGS...
WHERE ARE THESE INSECTS COMING FROM?
THOSE ARE FEMALE NEW ENGLAND BLACKFLIES.
SEE, THE MALES DON'T FEED OFF OF LIVING MEAT--
--THEY JUST CARRY NECTAR FOR THE LADIES.
GET THEM OFF ME, YOU REPULSIVE LITTLE FREAK!
SHAAAA... CALL THEM OFF!
BLACKFLIES ARE FEARLESS,
THEY CRAWL INTO YOUR EYES, EARS, NOSE AND ANY OTHER AREA OF EXPOSED SKIN.
SO, I'D SUGGEST YOU CLOSE YOUR MOUTH OR THEY'LL LAY EGGS IN YOUR THROAT.
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING I'M NUTS FOR PROCURING THE SERVICES OF THE POSTER CHILD FOR ALL THE BE GUYS PICKED LAST IN GYM CLASS, BUT CONSIDER THIS...
THEY ARE SMALL, BUT WHEN THEY BITE, THEY TAKE A BIG OLD BLOODY CHUNK OF YOU WITH THEM.
I LIVE IN NEW YORK. HOME TO EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE. THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND COCKROACHES FOR EVERY ONE PERSON IN THIS CITY. THAT MAKES HUMBUG THE MASTER OF THE WORLD'S MOST INCREDIBLE SPY NETWORK.
SURE HE'S KINDA CREEPY, BUT WHAT'S A BROTHER TO DO WHEN HIS POWER IS BUG-SPEAK?
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS. HE'S HAD ENOUGH.

THE UNDISPUTED DEADLIEST HANDS IN ALL OF KUNG FU BELONG TO SHANG-CHI. HIS NAME MEANS "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF THE SPIRIT." PRETTY COOL, HUH?
HIS DADDY WAS A RUTHLESS CRIME LORD WHO KEPT HIS SON HIDDEN AWAY IN HUNAN, CHINA AND MADE SURE SHANG COULD SHATTER BRICKS BEFORE HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO USE CHOPSTICKS.
YOU WERE GIVEN A SIMPLE CHOICE, WARFIST.
TURNING MYSELF OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES ISN'T A CHOICE. THE REGISTRATION IS GARBAGE AND YOU KNOW IT.
I DISAGREE. THE PROTECTION OF LIFE SHOULD BE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER HUMAN ENDEAVORS.
YOU KNOW ALL THAT CRAZY STUFF YOU SEE IN KUNG FU MOVIES WHERE THE WHITE-HAIRED OLD MASTER WITH THE BAD DUBBING CAN WALK ON WATER AND FLY FROM ROOF TO ROOF?
SHANG-CHI LIVED IT, CRUEL TUTELAGE AND ALL.
SORRY, NOT INTERESTED. I DRAW PLEASURE FROM ENDING LIFE!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU WILL FAIL.
GNHHAAA!
THERE WAS A TIME HE LIVED THE LIFE OF A SECRET AGENT AND HUNG OUT WITH HIS OWN ECLECTIC GROUP, BUT ALWAYS AS THE OUTSIDER LOOKING IN.
LIKE COLLEEN, SHANG'S AN OLD FRIEND, SO I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO ASK FOR HIS HELP. HE JUST SHOWED UP AT THE OFFICE AND STARTED WORKING WITHOUT A WORD.
I KNOW THIS CIVIL WAR BUSINESS HAS HIM WORRIED JUST LIKE THE REST OF US NON-POWERED FOOLS MIXING IT UP WITH THE BIG GUNS. HIS WISDOM ALWAYS KEEPS HIS MINION RESOLUTE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO ME.

THE ULTRA SEXY LATINA IN THE RED AND BLACK FORMFITTING COSTUME SAYS SHE'S MARIA VASQUEZ A.K.A.--THE TARANTULA.
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL SO FAR, SHE'S GOOD WITH BLADES AND SHE'S ALL ABOUT THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS AND GRACIE JUJITSU FIGHTING STYLE.
LIKE HUMBUG, SHE'S A WILD CARD AND ALTHOUGH I'VE DONE SOME DEEP DIGGING INTO HER PAST...WELL? DO YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I FOUND...?
NOTHING. ZIP. IT'S AS IF SHE JUST APPEARED OUT OF THIN AIR.
CRASH
THIS IS HER FIRST TIME IN THE FIELD WITH US AND I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TRUST HER...BUT I'VE GOT A PLAN FOR SOLVING THAT PROBLEM LATER.

MY NAME IS MISTY KNIGHT. THIS IS THE STATE OF THE WORLD. IF YOU WEAR A COSTUME, YOU HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS OR ONE OF THE BAD.
THEY'RE CALLING IT A CIVIL WAR WITH A SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE HERO BUSINESS. IRON MAN RUNS ONE SIDE AND CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS GONE TO GROUND WITH THE RESISTANCE.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE! NO WAY AM I GETTING PUNKED BY A BLACK CHICK WITH A BIONIC ARM!
I'M BLINDED!
I'LL WARN YOU THEN...
TONY STARK--IRON MAN HIMSELF--BUILT MY BIONIC ARM. BUT IT'S LIKE GETTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT BETWEEN YOUR OLDER BROTHERS--YOU CAN'T TAKE SIDES. ALL YOU CAN DO IS GIVE THEM ADVICE AND HOPE THEY CAN EVENTUALLY WORK IT OUT.
KEEP TALKING TRASH, FOUNDRY. I DON'T MIND.
CHAAAHHH
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT ROASTING?
I'M GOING TO ROAST YOU ALIVE AND PICK THE MEAT FROM YOUR BONES.
CAP AND IRON MAN ARE BOTH MY FRIENDS.
HERE IT COMES!
THIS BRINGS ME TO THE POINT...
...ONE WEEK AGO WE SHIFTED OUR FOCUS FROM BEING BAIL BONDSWOMEN TO GOVERNMENT AGENTS.


STARK TOWER... IT STARTED WHEN WE HAD A CHAT WITH IRON MAN, MISTER FANTASTIC AND SPIDER-MAN.
COLLEEN AND I HUNT BAIL-JUMPING MORONS; WE DON'T GO AFTER GOOD GUYS. WE ESPECIALLY DON'T GO AFTER CAPTAIN FREAKIN' AMERICA.
I UNDERSTAND THIS IS DIFFICULT AND UNFORTUNATE. WE WANTED STEVE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR POSITION...WE REALLY TRIED OUR BEST, BUT THE REALITY IS A LAW HAS BEEN PASSED; ONE THAT WE FEEL IS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND.
REED, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A WAR.
THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE A WAR. THINGS WILL COOL DOWN AND PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND! THIS IS THE BEST THING FOR EVERYONE.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO PUT ASIDE PERSONAL POLITICS AND I AGREE THAT IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.
LOOK. EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'VE GOT THE CONNECTIONS ON BOTH SIDES AND YOU CAN FIND ANYONE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. ALL WE'RE ASKING IS THAT YOU SHIFT YOUR FOCUS TO BRINGING IN PEOPLE THAT REFUSE TO REGISTER.
INCLUDING OUR FRIENDS?
THAT'S A CHOICE NO ONE WANTS TO MAKE.
THE CHOICE IS MADE. WE'RE ONLY GOING AFTER THE BLACK HATS.
DO YOU AT LEAST SEE WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM?
PETE, YOU'RE KINDA CREEPING ME OUT RIGHT NOW.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU USED TO MESS UP THE BAD GUYS AND THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.
SEEING CHILDREN INCINERATED HAS A WAY OF CHANGING A PERSON'S OUTLOOK.
WHICH IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON I'M ALL FOR THE REGISTRATION. BUT...
THE SITUATION MAKES US NERVOUS, AND WE DON'T DO NERVOUS.

WE'RE SUPER HEROES, MISTY.
WE TACKLE SUPER-CRIME AND WE SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES.
THE ONLY THING CHANGING IS THAT WE'RE FINALLY WEEDING OUT THE KIDS, THE AMATEURS, AND THE SOCIOPATHS.
WE'RE NOT SUPER HEROES. SO WHY WOULD YOU WANT US INVOLVED?
TO PUT A HUMAN FACE ON THE SITUATION.
I'M NOT A POSTER CHILD OR SPOKESMODEL, SPIDEY.
STAMFORD MADE YOU LOOK BAD AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON IT.
MAYBE IT WAS UNWISE TO ASK YOU TO COME ONBOARD.
BECAUSE WE HAVE REASONABLE CONCERNS AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID TO SAY IT?
DID I WAKE UP IN CHINA THIS MORNING?
YOU'RE BEING EXTREME IN YOUR COMPARISON.
LOOK, THE REGISTRATION THING'S A GREAT IDEA. I CAN DIG IT...
BUT A GOVERNMENTAL KNEE-JERK REACTION TO A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY MAY LEAD TO EVEN BIGGER PROBLEMS.
OKAY, SO DO YOU WANT TO DEBATE THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS?

TRY TO UNDERSTAND [redacted] COMING FROM.
I'M A BLACK WOMAN LIVING IN AMERICA. YOU ARE ALL WHITE AFFLUENT [redacted].
MAYBE NOT SO AFFLUENT IN YOUR CASE, SPIDEY...
GO AHEAD AND TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.
IT'S HER DEFINING PERSONALITY TRAIT.
NOT TO GET ALL "MY PEOPLE" BUT...
SLAVERY DIDN'T END UNTIL 1865.
SUSAN B. ANTHONY REGISTERED AND VOTED IN THE 1872 ELECTION AND [redacted] ARRESTED FOR KNOWINGLY, WRONGFULLY AND UNLAWFULLY VOTING FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO [redacted] CONGRESS OF UNITED STATES.
IT'S 2006. THIS ISN'T A BLACK-AND-WHITE THING OR A WOMEN'S RIGHTS [redacted]
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, BUT IT DOES ILLUSTRATE A POINT.
MAKING CLEAR DIVISIONS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER IS A DANGEROUS [redacted] THAT NEARLY ALWAYS ENDS IN VIOLENT CONFLICT.
I [redacted] TO KNOW YOU'RE DOING ALL YOU CAN TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING.
MISTY. YOU WERE A COP. YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR CIVIL ORDER AND LAWS.
I ABSOLUTELY DO. IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME THE MASKS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
YOU WANT TO TRAIN ALL THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK TO BE PROPER SUPER HEROES--WE GOT NO PROBLEM THERE.
PEOPLE [redacted] TO CHANGE
WE PROMISE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THIS A PEACEFUL TRANSITION
THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED TO HEAR.
WE'LL HAPPILY GO WYATT EARP ON THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD AND DRAG IN EVERY LOW-LIFE WITH A MASK AND BUCCANEER BOOTS...
BUT I WANT STARK-LEVEL RESOURCES AND THE AUTHORITY TO CHERRY-PICK MY TEAM WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED, EVEN IF I [redacted] FELONS [redacted] MERCENARIES.
YOU GOT IT.
ONE [redacted] THING. AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, [redacted] PAY ATTENTION. YOU KNOW [redacted] AND YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF I AM.
IF I SAY WE'RE WITH YOU, THEN THAT'S THAT; ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, BUT I BETTER [redacted] WELL HAVE YOUR THAT THINGS GO BAD...
...AND BELIEVE ME, THEY WILL GO BAD...
...YOU'LL STILL BE THE MEN I TRUST AND RESPECT.
YOU HAVE [redacted]

CHINATOWN, NOW...
HERE ARE, BACK HOME STREET, WHERE NIGHT BEGINS SAVING...
WHO'S NEXT?
MY IS CHOMPING AT THE BIT.
I LIKE THAT KIND OF INITIATIVE.
YOU KNOW, I NEVER REALIZED COOL IT IS TO BE THE OTHER SIDE OF LAW. OF COURSE, IS ROTTING IN JAIL CELL WORRYING ABOUT MIDNIGHT NUPTIAL VISITS FROM QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS.
I'M EATING HERE...
HUMBUG, NO PRISON STORIES.
GOD, NO.
SHUT UP, OTIS.
THERE BETTER BE SOME PAO CHICKEN LEFT. I'M STARVING.
HELLO, BLACK CAT. HOW THE MISSION?
WORD! IS OLD OF YOURS THE NAME OF RUNNING FAKE I.D. RING FOR SUPER FELONS LOOKING TO GO UNDERGROUND OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

DETAILS WERE SKETCHY, BUT WE MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THE SHIP-YARDS.
IT'S THE EASIEST WAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
HUMBUGGER, WIGGLE THOSE ANTENNAE AND FIND US SOME BAD GUYS.
CAN I FINISH MY SPRING ROLLS FIRST?
WIGGLE.
...WIGGLING...
"TAPPING INTO THE HIVE MIND...BEAR WITH ME A SECOND, SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO HEAR OVER THE WHITE NOISE OF MAGGOTS...
"HMMM...DEAD RATS, SQUALOR, PROSTITUTION AND DRUG DEALERS...THIS LOOKS PROMISING.

"LADIES, GET READY TO BE HAPPY."
THIS IS A CASH TRANSACTION ONLY.
THE PACKAGE INCLUDES [redacted] I.D.'S, PASSPORTS, DRIVER'S LICENSES, PLANE TICKETS [redacted] THE COUNTRY OF OUR CHOICE, [redacted] AS A SPECIAL INCENTIVE [redacted] LL EVEN THROW [redacted] COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL AND IN-FLIGHT MOVIE.
HEY, SHOCKWAVE, IS THAT GRINDHOUSE? I THOUGHT [redacted] RETIRED.
MAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S UP [redacted] HALF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM, GOLDBUG.
MOST [redacted] THEM AREN'T ACTIVE AND YET HERE THEY [redacted] LIKE SCARED [redacted] LOOKING TO JUMP SHIP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M PICKING UP FOR A BUDDY.
RIIIGHT. ME, I'M LOOKING TO GO INTERNATIONAL. YOU GOTTA BE NUTS TO WEAR A COSTUME IN NEW YORK.
IT AIN'T LIKE THE OLD DAYS, MAN. PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING OFF THE STREETS: I MEAN BIG NAMES LIKE THE GREEN GOBLIN [redacted] VENOM, GUYS THAT NO ONE GOES LOOKING FOR [redacted] PURPOSE.

SO YOU'RE SCARED?
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT, AND YOU SHOULD BE, TOO.
THERE'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS OUT LOOKIN' FOR US ALL AND I AIN'T LIKE THESE OTHER FREAKS.
I GOT MY PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. I'M A THIEF. I LIKE MONEY AND ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO RETIRE A RICH MAN BEFORE I GET OLD.
VENDETTA THING... YOU KNOW, LIKE [redacted] TO KILL SPIDER-MAN BECAUSE HE FOILED A HEIST OR WHATEVER. THAT DOESN'T DO SQUAT FOR MY BANK ACCOUNT AND CHILD SUPPORT.
WHO'D YOU KNOCK UP?
YOUR MOTHER.
...WHAT ARE YOU, THE INQUIRER? I'M TALKING [redacted] A COMPLETE SHIFT IN THE [redacted] HERO [redacted] HERE!
DUDE, CHILL... I'M JUST ASKING.
SHOCKWAVE! YOUR PAPERS ARE IN ORDER!
PICKIN' UP FOR A BUDDY, HUH? YOU TRY TO ACT ALL TOUGH.
SAVE IT.
OKAY, YOU'RE NOW PIETER WILHELM FROM AMSTERDAM.
WHAT I SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR AMERICAN STATUS. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING TO AUSTIN, TEXAS!
BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, SHOCKWAVE. YOU WANT TO END UP IN JAIL ALONG WITH THE OTHER LOSERS, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. RIGHT NOW MY PROBLEM IS GETTING PAID.
KATANA

YOUR PROBLEMS JUST GOT A LOT WORSE, VIENNA!
MISTY KNIGHT AND HER KUNG FU PLAYMATES.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING HERE?
THEY'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS!
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T SHOW.

IT'S A SETUP.
WOW. DECEPTIVE VILLAINS. SHOCKING.
BOYS... KICK THEIR TEETH DOWN THEIR THROATS.
THIS IS MISTY. EXECUTE BAIT AND SWITCH.
ROGER THAT, MISTY!

BRING IT, ROBOT FREAKS! I THROW MORE BLOWS THAN BOXING DOC OCK!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
OTIS SUGGESTED SOME BATTLE CATCHPHRASES... I THOUGHT THAT ONE WAS PRETTY COOL.
NEVER, EVER, TAKE OUR RECEPTIONIST'S ADVICE ON COOL!
THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN REFORMED CRIMINALS SWITCHING SIDES, BLACK CAT.
AND YOU ARE...? WAIT! LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE THE GREEN NINJA? JADE NINJA?
I AM GHOST MAKER!
DO NOT GIVE HER YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY! JUST...KILL HER!
SO YOU'RE THE TARANTULA EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT.
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON OUR SIDE.
YOUR SIDE IS HEADED FOR EXTINCTION.
MY BLADES WANT TO PUNCTURE YOUR HEART AND VOMIT YOUR BLOOD!
YOMIT MY WHA...? HUKKK!
I NEED HELP HERE! THIS CHICK IS CRAZY!

RHAGH!
HOLD STILL AND I'LL MAKE IT QUICK.
SHOCKWAVE, LOOK OUT...I NEED A CLEAR SHOT.
TARANTULA, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL ANYONE.
GNHAAA! MY ARM!
MISTY SAID I COULD MAIM THEM IF I WANT.
SHHH.
CRACK!
HOW WE DOIN', HUMBUGGER?
BUSINESS AS USUAL, GORGEOUS.
EXCUSE ME, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
UH... NUTHIN'.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, VIENNA. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO *THESE* DAYS?
VERY FUNNY. I'M EARNING A LIVING *THANKS TO YOU* AND YOUR BAND OF KUNG FU *SEX BOMBS*.

SEX BOMBS?
CHECK THE MIRROR, MISTY. WHY DO YOU THINK ALL THE BOYS WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND?

SHHHH!
CAFF!
I'M SURE THEY *DREAM* ABOUT YOU.

MISTY!

COLLEEN, LOOK OUT!
UNGHH!

UHHNNCC!
HURTS, DON'T IT, BABY?
GNNHUHH!
WHO'S LEFT?
WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR INSECT SPIES, HUMBUG. WE COULD USE BOTH OF YOU ON OUR TEAM. WHAT DO YOU SAY? WE CAN PAY YOU TWICE AS MUCH WITHOUT TAXATION.
I'M NOT IN THIS FOR THE MONEY.
AND I'D RATHER D'IE THAN GO BACK TO PRISON.
DIE IT IS, THEN.
EQUINOX, INCINERATE THEM.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT...

MY NAME'S PALADIN AND YOU MAY KNOW MY ASSOCIATES, SHANG-CHI AND ORKA. WE'RE MISTY'S SECOND WAVE.
YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO SURRENDER...AFTER THAT, I PROMISE THINGS WILL GET REAL. BLOODY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. WE GOT OUR BUTTS HANDED TO US BY A BUNCH OF THIRD-RATE GOONS AND NEEDED THE BACKUP SQUAD FOR HELP.
IT APPEARS THEY DID NOT LIKE THE NON-VIOLENT OPTION.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG. LIKE A BOXER ON THE TAKE, WE THREW THE FIGHT. WE ATE CANVAS IN THE FIRST ROUND FOR A REASON. PAY ATTENTION.
I LIKE IT BETTER WHEN I CAN HIT PEOPLE, SHANG-CHI.
LET'S WRAP THIS UP, PEOPLE. MISTY'S NOT PAYING ME BY THE HOUR.
NICE WORK, VIENNA.
I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE THE ROBOTS WERE A BIT EXCESSIVE.

THANK ME WITH MONEY, HONEY.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE BAD GIRL.
THIS WAS A STING OPERATION. VIENNA LURED THE WILD BUNCH HERE WITH PROMISES OF NEW IDENTITIES. IN EXCHANGE, WE'RE PAYING HER A LARGE SUM OF FEDERAL CASH.
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?
THEY DIDN'T TRUST US.
BUCK, YOU'RE AN EX-CON. WE PUT YOU BACK IN JAIL LAST MONTH. MARIA, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY FORTHCOMING WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION. SO APARTTESLY WE DID NOT TRUST YOU, EITHER.
GIVEN RECENT EVENTS IT WAS A NECESSARY STEP TO INSURE GROUP STABILITY.
THEY DID THE SAME THING WITH ME. SO DON'T FEEL BAD.
I CAN SEE YOUR LOGIC. IN THE FUTURE, IF YOU WANT INFORMATION, YOU ASK ME FOR IT.
LOOK, PEOPLE, WE'RE LITERALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR BETWEEN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SUPER HEROES. WE'RE OUTCLASSED, OUTGUNNED AND THAT PRETTY MUCH MAKES US THE DIRTY DOZEN OF THE SPANDEX SET.
THE CAPES CAN UNDERESTIMATE US ALL THEY WANT BECAUSE THE BOTTOM LINE IS, FOR ALL THEIR POWER, NONE OF THE MASKS KNOWS WHOM THEY CAN TRUST AND WHOM THEY CAN'T.
TRUST AIN'T GONNA BE AN ISSUE WITH HEROES FOR HIRE.
NEXT> CAPTAIN AMERICA